

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09886 01 OF 02 080908Z

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL ONLY

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CINCPAC-USIA ADVISOR

E. O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (ONE WEEK)-JULY 2-8, 1976

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA-THE PRESS IN AMERICA'S ONLY FORMER COLONY PAID BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES (IN A FEW CASES SOMEWHAT GRUDGINGLY) TO AMERICAN'S GREATNESS. THE BULLETIN TODAY EDITORIALIZED:

"IN THINKING ABOUT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 200TH BIRTHDAY ONE IS TEMPTED TO USE A LOT OF SUPERLATIVES-THE FREEST, THE MIGHTIEST, THE MOST PLURALISTIC, THE RICHEST, AND SO ON. AS NATIONS GO, THE US IS FANTASTIC.

"IT IS THE LEADER OF THE WORLD COMMUNIT IN MANY WAYS. FOR INSTANCE, BECAUSE IT IS THE HEAVIEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION, THE UN MIGHT COLLAPSE WITHOUT THE FINANCIAL BACKING OF THE AMERICANS.

"...AND, OF COURSE, WITHOUT AMERICAN AID, THE GOING

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PAGE 02 MANILA 09886 01 OF 02 080908Z

WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR MANY DEVELOPING COUNTIRES.

"YET IN SPITE OF ALL THIS THE US IS REGARDED WITH SUS-
PICION AND SOMETIMES WITH HOSTILITY BY MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.
WE CAN ATTRIBUTE THIS IN PART TO THE DIFFICULTY OF KNOWING
THE HEART OF A VASTLY COMPLICATED SOCIETY.

"FOR EVEN THE AMERICAN THEMSELVES ARE OFTENTIMES
PUZZLED BY THEIR OWN SOCIETY AND BY THEIR OWN ROLE IN THE
WORLD COMMUNITY."

"...THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LEADERS OF THE
AMERICAN NATIONA IS TO GIVE FULL EXPRESSION TO THE AMERICAN
IDEALS OF FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY AS THESE APPLY NOT ONLY TO
THEIR OWN COUNTRY BUT ALSO TO THOSE OTHER NATIONS THAT SHARE
THEM.

"IN WISHING AMERICA THE BEST ON ITS 200TH BIRTHDAY WE
ALSO HOPE FOR THE BEST FOR OURSELVES."

JULY 4TH IS ALSO CELEBRATED AS PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY,
A NATIONAL HOLIDAY, WHICH INSPIRED THE ENGLISH-CHINESE ORIENT NEWS,
PUBLISHED BY THE WIFE OF PRESIDENTIAL AID JUAN TUVERA, TO THE
FOLLOWING EDITORIAL FULMINATIONS:

ZTHE OBSERVANCE OF PHILIPPINE-AMZDI
JFREINDSHIP DAY TODAY
INVITES MANY TO TAKE STOCK OF CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES...

"THE STATESDIE VERSION (OF THE AMERICAN COLONIAL PERIOD)
WILL ALSO TRUMPET CLAIMS OF HOW THE PHILIPPINES SUPPOSEDLY WAS
ENLIGHTENED BY THE SETTING UP OF THE AMERICAN STYLE OF POPULAR
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

"BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE FACT IS THAT THE AMERICAN
INVADERS - LIKE THEIR SPANISH PREDECESSORS - CAME HERE TO
EVANGELIZE THE PHILIPPINES ACCORDING TO THEIR DIFFERENT
PERSUASIONS. THE SPANIARDS ARRIVED TO CONVERT WHTAT THEY
THOUGHT WERE PAGAN NATIVES TO CHRISTIANITY. THE AMERICANS
LANDED TO PREACH THEIR GOSPEL OF CRASS COMMERCIALISM...
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PAGE 03 MANILA 09886 01 OF 02 080908Z

"IN FOISTING THEIR POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS ON
THE PHILIPPINES, THEY MEANT TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY INTO NOTHING
BUT A MARKET FOR US-MANUFACTURED AUTOMOBILES AND APPLIANCES,
CIGARETS AND CHEWING GUM, MOVIES AND MACHINERY.

"WHEN THE AMERICAN FINALLY PROCLAIMED THE INDEPENDENCE
OF THE PHILIPPINES, THEY CARRIED ON THEIR EXPLOITATION OF

THE COUNTRY IN A SUBTLE MANNER...FIRST, THEY WANGLED PARITY
RIGHTS...THEN, THEY ELECTED TO STAY PUT ON VAST AMERICAN
MILITARY AND NAVAL BASES...THE MOST ONEROUS FORMS OF
EXTRATERRITORIALITY.

"NOW, NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A REWRITING OF THE
BASES AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS A FINAL RECOG-
NITION BY THE AMERICAN OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY IN THE BASES.
HOW THE AMERICAN WILL REACT TO THIS POSITION OF THE
PHILIPPINES HAS NOW BECOME THE REAL TEST OF THE SUPPOSED
FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. OTHERWISE, THE
OBSERVANCE OF PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY WILL HAVE
A HOLLOW RING."

2. RENDER UNTO CAESAR - THE ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN CONTEST BETWEEN
CHRUCH AND STATE OVER WHERE POLITICS ENDS AND MORALITY BEGINS
SURFACED ANEW THIS WEEK WHEN JUSTICE SECRETARY ABAD SANTOS,
BELIEVED BY MANY TO BE A STALKING HORSE FOR MALACANANG, ACCUSED
THE CHURCH OF USING ITS PULPITS TO CRITICIZE THE MARTIAL LAW
REGIME. SAID ABAD SANTOS: "I HARDLY THINK THAT THE SANCTITY
OF A PLACE OF WORSHIP SHOULD BE PROFANCED BY DILETTANTES PURSUING
AN AMATEUR INTEREST IN POLITICAL SCIENCE." SPEAKING BEFORE
THE METROPOLITAN CONSTABULARY COMMAND, ABAD SANTOS ADDED MEAN-
INGFULLY, "THESE ACTIVITIES AND OTHER INDICATIONS OF BACK-
SLIDING CONSTITUTE THE CHIEF CHALLENGE TO THE METROPOLITAN COMMAND...
THE METROPOLIS LOOKS UP TO YOU FOR THE FIRM AND RESPONSIBLE
EXERCISE OF CONSTABULARY AUTHORITY."

THE ARCHBISHOP OF MANILA, NEWLY-FROCKED CARDINAL JAIME SIN,
WAS QUICK TO PICK UP THE CHALLENGE. "PERHAPS WHAT OUR COUNTRY
NEEDS AT THIS POINT ARE AMATEURS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN MADE BLASE
BY THE REALITIES OF POLITICS," HE POINTEDLY TOLD A LOCAL ROTARY
CLUB AUDIENCE, "AMATEURS BLESSED WITH THE SENSE OF WONDER AND
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PAGE 04 MANILA 09886 01 OF 02 080908Z

FIRED WITH A BRAND OF IDEALISM THAT THE PROFESSIONALS HAVE
LONG FORGOTTEN."

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09886 02 OF 02 081246Z

53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 W

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 9886

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SURPRISINGLY THIS DIALOGUE FOUND ITSELF AIRED IN MANILA'S CONTROLLED PRESS, WITH EDITORIAL WRITERS AND COLUMNISTS WEIGHING IN HEAVILY AGAINST THE CHURCH'S POSITION. THE PALACE-CONTROLLED DAILY EXPRESS HEADED ITS REBUTTAL "DENOUNCE INJUSTICE, YES, BUT IS THE PULPIT THE PROPER FORUM?" ITS AFTERNOON EDITION, THE EVENING EXPRESS, EDITORIALIZED "CHURCH PULPIT: NOT A PLACE FOR PROFANITY." REGIME APOLOGIST TEODORO "DOROY" VALENCIA JOINED THE FRAY. "PULPIT CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THE CHURCH AND STATE ARE SEPARATE, BU THE CHURCH IS BEYOND THE REACH OF THE STATE," HE NOTED ACIDLY.

SIN REMAINED UNDAUNTED. "CHRIST PREACHED JUSTICE, SO THE PRIEST MUST DO LIKEWISE. BUT AS HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST HERE AND EVERYWHERE ELSE, IS HE TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT IF THE INJUSTICE HAPPENS TO BE COMMITTED BY SOMEONE IN GOVERNMENT?" HE ASKED HIS AUDIENCE RHETORICALLY.

AS USUAL, VALENCIA FIRED THE PARTING SHOT. "DENOUNCING THE GOVERNMENT AND DENOUNCING INJUSTICE ARE TWO DIFFERENT BIRDS EVEN IF THEY SOMETIMES LOOK SIMILAR," HE CONCLUDED WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC BREVITY.

BEGIN L.O. U.

COMMENT: THIS EXCHANGE UNDOUBTEDLY IS NOT THE LAST TO BE HEARD
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PAGE 02 MANILA 09886 02 OF 02 081246Z

ON THIS FRONT. THE JUSTICE SECRETARY HAS THROWN DOWN THE GAUNTLET AND SIN UNHESITATINGLY PICKED IT UP. WHETHER THE NEXT BLOWS WILL BE EXCHANGED PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY IS A MOOT POINT, BUT THE CONTEST HAS BEEN JOINED AND A MAJOR TEST OF WILLS APPEARS TO BE IN THE OFFING. END L.O.U.

II. SINGINIFANT ACTIVITIES

1. A BUMPER BICENTENNIAL - FOLLOWING A FRANTIC FINAL WEEK OF PREPARATIONS WHICH INCLUDED THREE 24-HOUR DAYS MOUNTING A COMPLETE NEW "LIFE, LIBERTY AND PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" EXHIBIT, THE RESULTS APPEARED TO JUSTIFY THE HERCULEAN EFFORTS EXPENDED.

A. THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION ON THE EMBASSY GROUNDS FEATURING THE LLPH EXHIBIT WAS A SMASH SUCCESS, WITH THE LARGEST TURNOUT IN RECENT MEMORY (EST. 2500).

B. THE POST'S EFFORTS IN AIRLIFTING A TV CAMERA CREW TO CLARK AFB TO PHOTOGRAPH THEIR PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY EXTRAVAGANZA PROVED WELL JUSTIFIED. CHANNEL 9 AIRED 20 MINUTES DURING PRIME TIME AT 9:00 P.M. JULY 4 AND THE OTHER CHANNELS USED CLIPSSHOT BY USIS PHOTOGRAPHERS ON THE SAME OCCASION. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE WAS THE AGENCY'S SATELLITE FEED, WHICH LACKED DEPTH OR FOCUS AND WAS OF MEDIOCRE TECHNICAL AND ARTISTIC QUALITY. AFTER SELLING CHANNEL 9 ON PAYING ITS OWN LANDLINE AND PRODUCTION COSTS ON THE BASIS OF OFFERING A TOP-QUALITY PROGRAM FEATURING, AMONG OTHERS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WE ARE FRANKLY ASHAMED TO FACE THEM AND PROBABLY WILL NOT AGAIN BE GRANTED THE SAME CONCESSIONS.

C. THE GRAND OPENING OF THE LLPH EXHIBIT TO THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC WAS HELD JULY 5 WITH A RECEPTION BILLED AS "A DAY IN COLONIAL AMERICA". HOSTESSES WERE DRESSED IN COLONIAL COSTUMES, COLONIAL FOOD AND DRINKS WERE SERVED, AND THE EVENING WOUND UP WITH A SHORT CONCERT OF COLONIAL MUSIC PRESENTED BY THE U.P. COLLEGE OF MUSIC. AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TURPIN AND SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY ALDABA-LIM OFFICIALLY OPENED THE EXHIBIT BEFORE AN ELITE AUDIENCE OF 140, INCLUDING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ENRIQUE FERNANDO, PRESS SECRETARY FRANCISCO TATAD AND A NUMBER OF OTHER AMBASSADROS AND DIGNITARIES. GUESTS WERE VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS IN THEIR PRAISE FOR THE EXHIBIT, THE ATMOSPHERE AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MANILA 09886 02 OF 02 081246Z

IMAGINATIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM.

D. BOTH THE BULLETIN, THE NATION'S LARGEST DAILY, AND THE EXPRESS, THE SECOND LARGEST, PRODUCED SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL SECTIONS WITH FEATURES ON PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND OTHER BICENTENNIAL THEMES.

E. OUR MAJOR BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITS AND OTHER DISPLAYS AT RUSTAN'S, THE PHILIPPINES' LARGEST DEPARTMENT STORE, AND AT THE EXECUTIVE SUITE, AN ELITE BUSINESSMEN'S CLUB IN MAKATI, CONTINUED TO DRAW SUBSTANTIAL CROWDS.

F. ALTHOUGH USIS DAVAO WAS UNABLE TO MOUNT ITS LLPH EXHIBIT FOR THE OCCASION DUE TO LACK OF TIME, THE REGULAR JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

WAS HELD WITH BICENTENNIAL SPEECHES AND PATRIOTIC MUSIC AT A LOCAL BEACH RESORT.

2. KRAUSE/PATRICK PROGRAMS USEFUL-SENIOR ECONOMISTS LAWRENCE KRAUSE (SENIOR FELLOW, BROOKINGS INSTITUTION) AND HUGH PATRICK (DIRECTOR YALE ECONOMIC GROWTH CENTER) VISITED MANILA THIS WEEK ENROUTE TO BANGKOK FOR THE EIGHT PACIFIC TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (PAFTAD). NEITHER ECONOMIST HAD PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE PHILIPPINES, A GAP THEY ACKNOWLEDGED IN THEIR ASIAN ECONOMIC BACKGROUND. HOWEVER, THEIR OPENNESS AND RESPONSIVENESS IN SESSIONS WITH NEDA, CENTRAL BANK, ADB, UP ECONOMICS FACULTY, AND PRESS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES MADE THE THREE-DAY STOP-OVER VERY PRODUCTIVE. BOTH SPEAKERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO MANILA, POSSIBLY NEXT SUMMER WHEN EACH WILL BE INVOLVED IN AN ONGOING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROJECT CENTERED IN TOKYO.

3. FAIR/BALDWIN PROGRAMS--VOLSPKR ECONOMETRICIAN RAY FAIR WAS PROGRAMMED IN AN EFFECTIVE LECTURE-DISCUSSION AT THE UP ECONOMIC LIBRARY ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC SOCIET, ECONOMICS FACULTY AND GRADUATE/UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS. HE SPOKE ON "INTERNATIONAL EFFECTS OF U.S. ECONOMICS DECISIONS: RESULTS FROM AN ECONOMETRIC MODEL." THE FOLLOWING DAY HE JOINED WITH VOLSPKR ROBERT BALDWIN IN A TWO-PART SYMPOSIUM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE WHICH CONSISTED OF THE SAME LECTURE (ON A MORE ADVANCED PLANE) IN THE MORNING FOLLOWED BY AN AFTERNOON SESSION ON "FOREIGN TRADE POLICY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT" BY BALDWIN.
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PAGE 04 MANILA 09886 02 OF 02 081246Z

THE AUDIENCE CONSISTED OF APPROXIMATELY 40 SENIOR DOT OFFICIALS, COMMERCIAL ANALYSTS, COMMODITIES SPECIALISTS AND ECONOMISTS FROM UP, ATENEO, BANCOM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE SYCIP, GORRES AND VELAYO GROUP OF COMPANIES. THE AUDIENCE ASKED QUESTIONS AND WAXED GENERALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROGRAM.
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